

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 is currently pending. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11-14 have been canceled without prejudice by the present amendment. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 2, 5, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,058,277 to Streefkerk et al. (hereinafter “the ‘277 patent”); Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘277 patent in view of the Smith et al. reference (“Guidelines for Designing User Interface Software”); and Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘277 patent and the Smith et al. reference, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,606,163 to Suzuki et al. (hereinafter “the ‘163 patent”).

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11-14 are rendered moot by the present cancellation of those claims.

Claim 4 is directed to a method of displaying a queue of print jobs of a printing device including a printing job controller and a display unit, the method comprising: (1) calculating a time required to process a print job using the printing job controller; (2) reading out a current status of the print job using the printing job controller; (3) displaying an image having a size proportional to the time required and filled with a repeating pixel pattern on the display unit of the printing device; and (4) changing the repeating pixel pattern according to the current status.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Office Action asserts that the ‘277 patent discloses everything in Claim 4 with the exception of “changing

the repeating pixel pattern according to the current status,”¹ and relies on the ‘163 patent to remedy that deficiency. In particular, Applicants note that the Office Action on pages 11 and 12 does not appear to rely upon any teachings in the Smith et al. reference regarding the limitations recited in Claim 4.

The ‘277 patent is directed to a method of controlling a printer system including the steps of displaying operating information that permits an operator to input a print order; generating order processing time signals related to the estimated processing time for printing the print orders with the printer; determining a value of an aperture angle of a circle segment according to the order processing time signals; displaying the circle segment having the determined aperture angle value; generating a time signal corresponding to an actual time; and adjusting the angular position of the circle segment according to the time signal. In particular, as shown in Figures 5-8, the ‘277 patent discusses a system in which the current time is displayed and a segment is displayed indicating the total waiting time for a particular job. As shown in Figure 8, the ‘277 patent discloses that the waiting time for multiple jobs also can be displayed.

However, as admitted in the outstanding Office Action, the ‘277 patent fails to disclose changing the repeating pixel pattern that is displayed according to the current status, as required by Claim 4.

The Smith et al. reference is directed to guidelines for designing user interface software and discloses various methods for displaying data. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the Smith et al. reference fails to disclose changing the repeating pixel pattern that is displayed according to the current status, as recited in Claim 4. Moreover, Applicants note that the Office Action does not appear to rely upon any of the teachings of the Smith et al. reference regarding the limitations recited in Claim 4.

¹ See page 11 of the outstanding Office Action.

The '163 patent is directed to a print processor that carries out printing upon receipt of a job processing request that includes an instruction for processing print requests for a plurality of documents as one job, the print processor including means for, upon receipt of a job processing request from the terminal, checking whether or not a next print document was received within a predetermined period of time by monitoring a series of documents included in the job processing request; and means for, upon receipt of the job processing request, judging whether the scheduling attributes are complete attributes which carry out scheduling in such a way that the execution of a job is started upon receipt of all print documents related to the job. In particular, as shown in Figures 17-20, the '163 patent discloses a relationship between a printer queue and a terminate queue in which jobs waiting for processing start are queued. In illustrating the concepts shown in Figures 17-20, the '163 patent discloses the various states of the jobs using circles having different patterns therein.

However, Applicants note that the '163 patent does not disclose that the different circles with the different patterns shown in Figures 17-20 are part of a type of display that is displayed to the user on a display unit of a printing device, as required by Claim 4. Figures 17-20 are merely used to illustrate an inventive concept of the '163 patent. Nowhere does the '163 patent disclose that the circle shown in Figures 17-20 are actually part of any type of display on a display unit of a printing device.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the '163 patent fails to disclose changing the repeating pixel pattern (which is displayed on the display unit of the printing device) according to the current status, as required by Claim 4.

Thus, no matter how the teachings of the '277 patent, the Smith et al. reference, and the '163 patent are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest changing the repeating pixel pattern (which is displayed on a display unit of the printing device) according to the current status, as recited in Claim 4. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that a

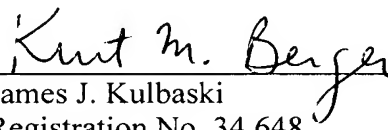
prima facie case of obviousness has not been established and that the rejection of Claim 4 should be withdrawn.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 4 patentably defines over any proper combination of the '277 patent, the Smith et al. reference, and the '163 patent.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Registration No. 34,648
Attorney of Record

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
1924144_1

Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.
Registration No. 51,461